

# LASCA Leaves



Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

## DONATED KOI FLAUNT COLORS IN NEW MEADOWBROOK POOL

THE DONATION of some very good koi to the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum last year resulted in the koi pond which adds a new attraction to Meadowbrook. The jewel-like decorative carp, some as much as one and one-half feet long, have been held in various ponds around the grounds as the finishing touches were put on their final home.

The new koi pond itself is a roughly kidney-shaped pool nestled in a

bend near the northern end of the stream and was planned as part of the existing Meadowbrook Section. Landscaping is also in keeping with Meadowbrook which is meant to showcase selected plants for the home landscape. Holly bushes will be banked along the end of the 25,000-gallon pool where water gushes from among the weathered roots of a redwood snag. Crape myrtle, redbud, Natal plum and other flowering trees will visually relate the area to the nearby Asiatic and North American Section.

A gazebo constructed of redwood

beams will give visitors a shaded vantage point from which to watch the antics of the colorful fish. The structure, about the same size as the interpretive center in the South African Section, also serves a practical purpose; the solid deck covers the gravel and sand filtering system to keep the water clear for the koi.

Reflected on the surface of the koi pond are the subtle pink tones of the striated sandstone boulders brought from San Diego County and tumbled naturalistically along the edge of the koi pond as a transition from the pool to the surrounding lawn.



*A redwood gazebo in Meadowbrook is the 1984 Benefactors' project. (Illustration by James Johnson)*



## REMODELED ROTUNDA PROVIDES SPACE FOR VISITORS CENTER

THE REMODELED ROTUNDA, scheduled for completion in November, paves the way for a number of improvements at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. Other than being a passageway, the space will be the location of four new ticket stations that will speed access for visitors on busy days. After they purchase their tickets, visitors will proceed directly through the stiles into the garden instead of having to proceed through the line of people still waiting their turns, as the placement of the old ticket windows made necessary.

Although the skylight was filled in and a few cement block walls added, every effort has been made to avoid a cave-like atmosphere. The slanted roof still soars to almost 15 feet with two corners glazed from the ground to the roof beams.

"As much of the walls as possible will be glass to preserve the see-

through feature of the rotunda," said Director Francis Ching. Bronze tinted, double glazed panels will extend above the two pair of glass doors opening both toward the north and south so that it will still be possible to see the San Gabriel Mountains through the glass on the north side. Durable quarry tile pavers will cover the cement floor, adding further to the effect of a solarium, and redwood will cover the walls for a long-lasting, attractive finish. Exit will be either along a new walled walk next to the library or through the present doors of the gift shop.

Future plans call for what is now the information center and ticket sellers area to become a visitors orientation center. A slide show presented regularly will illustrate highlights of the Arboretum throughout the seasons. A graphic presentation will include information on what to see and do at the Arboretum each day as well as upcoming events further in the future.

## GOING...



LuAnn Munns

*Workers begin removing old accessories from the rotunda in preparation for remodeling.*

## GOING...



LuAnn Munns

*As the last orchid cabinet is carried away, a "Bobcat" tractor moves in close behind, demolishing the old floor.*



## NEWLY DIVIDED LECTURE HALL NOW SAFER, MORE VERSATILE



CONSTRUCTION of about 85 linear feet of partitioning wall in the Lecture Hall began in mid-July, to be completed in September. When the renovation of the Hall is complete, the area will be divided into two classrooms and a corridor, all built with double layers of drywall to stop noise transmission and possible fires. The contractor, D & W Associate Builders, Inc. of Temple City, also pointed out that fire dampers have been added at all air circulation openings to meet or surpass local fire codes. Another safety feature involves improving and resurfacing the entrance ramp to better serve handicapped visitors.

Visitors using the Lecture Hall will enter through the corridor that runs along the east wall, and then go into either of the classrooms through double glass doors without disturb-

ing occupants of the other room.

The heavily insulated walls and "Soniewall" woodgrain sliding doors make it possible to use the Hall for two separate meetings or classes at the same time. Many smaller groups could not be accommodated in the past because, although there was enough space, the sound overlap made it impossible to conduct the meetings simultaneously. Now, the Lecture Hall can be effectively divided for two small classes or opened up when a single large area is needed.

Renovation of the Lecture Hall is one of the capital projects paid for with the matching funds from the successful drive in June.

## GONE!



LuAnn Munns

*Relative calm settles as workmen begin installing the wall covering and window frames that will enclose the rotunda for ticket selling stations.*



James Johnson

*Metal framework goes up to support the walls that divide the old lecture hall into two separate classrooms.*



## CONCRETE WALKS, STAIRS ASSURE SAFER FOOTING

CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY and convenience of visitors to the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum has prompted a number of improvements throughout the grounds. Cement walks that replace decomposed granite paths near the Tropical Greenhouse, the Old Fashioned Rose Garden and the Aquatic Garden provide better access to these areas.

"Time and use have taken a toll," said Director Francis Ching in referring to the eroded paths and uneven steps. He went on to explain that over the years it has been necessary to continually pack earth back into paths after it washed out. The concrete walks make a permanent improvement that should save many manhours in the future.

In addition, the entire stairway that winds up Tallac Knoll from the base of the waterfall to the top of

the slope has been replaced. The stairway, constructed years ago from railroad ties and decomposed granite, had deteriorated to the point where it was becoming dangerously uneven. The new steps with low risers sweep up to angled landings facing north over Meadowbrook to the San Gabriel Mountains beyond.

The network of paving beginning at the entranceway proceeds to the Sunset Demonstration Home Garden, the Ayres Hall of Environmental Education, through the Garden for All Seasons and around the Begonia and Tropical Greenhouse. As part of the complete route that leads visitors through the Arboretum's horticultural garden center, the walks serve as a visual tie between the newly renovated groundcover plots, the two greenhouses and the planned water conservation garden.



James Johnson

*Feet of any age find that the concrete stairway beside the waterfall make the trip much smoother.*



James Johnson

*A smooth sweep of concrete leads to the Tropical Greenhouse.*



LuAnn Munns

*Interns help lay the brick-edged concrete walks that connect the brick paths in the Old Fashioned Rose Garden with the tram road.*



# Experience in Many Fields



OVER THE YEARS, several dozen young men and women have spent their summers at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, acquiring callouses, blisters, a few bucks and — what's most important — a large dose of applied knowledge. They are the beneficiaries of the California Arboretum Foundation's Horticultural Intern Program. Of course, the Arboretum has also gotten major benefits as well.

The program offers "hands-on" training apprenticeships with the Arboretum staff to college students majoring in horticulture, botany, landscape architecture and related subjects. It provides not only practical work experience that students can't get in school but also supplies valuable manpower to assist the depleted gardening staff at the Arboretum.

According to Joan Malafronte, CAF administrative assistant, "The interns accomplish many projects during the summer months when the gardening staff is at its lowest level."

Among those being helped is Suzanne Granger, herbarium curator. Because of Ms. Granger's willingness to work patiently with the interns and the exacting nature of the work itself, the Herbarium is among the most popular assignments.

"Basically, we are detectives. Every



James Johnson

*Herbarium curator Suzanne Granger (center) demonstrates the proper method for mounting dried specimens to interns Loretta Parks, Mike Mayer and Tanja Gillespie.*



plant has to be positively identified, even if it has already been tagged. The Herbarium is a reference tool so we have to get it right," Ms. Granger said.

There has been a lot of conventional gardening done over the years as well. "They've done us a favor by doing a lot of pruning, planting and ground clearing that the staff just didn't have time to get to," said Superintendent John Provine.

Each year the interns work on major projects on the grounds that they leave behind as permanent marks of their tenure. The Mediterranean Section, for instance, now looks much different than it did early this summer when the students began removing the badly overgrown shrubs that engulfed the desirable specimen plants. And the Arboretum's collection of exotic palms, once hidden away in the growing houses, has now been planted out on the grounds for public enjoyment, thanks to the efforts of the interns.

The interns are also given the chance to compare the Arboretum with other major gardens in the Southland. Recently, the group took

fieldtrips to the Virginia Robinson Gardens in Beverly Hills to see the different aspects of the garden as well as to the San Diego Wild Animal Park, the Huntington Botanical Gardens, Sherman Gardens and Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden.

The experience and time spent on all their projects was meant to reinforce the career decision of each intern. Has that happened? What has become of the growing legion of

Arboretum alumni?

Ms. Granger summed it up when she said, "Most of the interns I talked to felt that working here was a great asset to have on their resumes. I think the most important bonus for them was that they have developed a much clearer outlook and idea of what they eventually want to do."

The important benefits to the Arboretum are spread throughout the grounds, plain for all to see.



Suzanne Granger



James Johnson





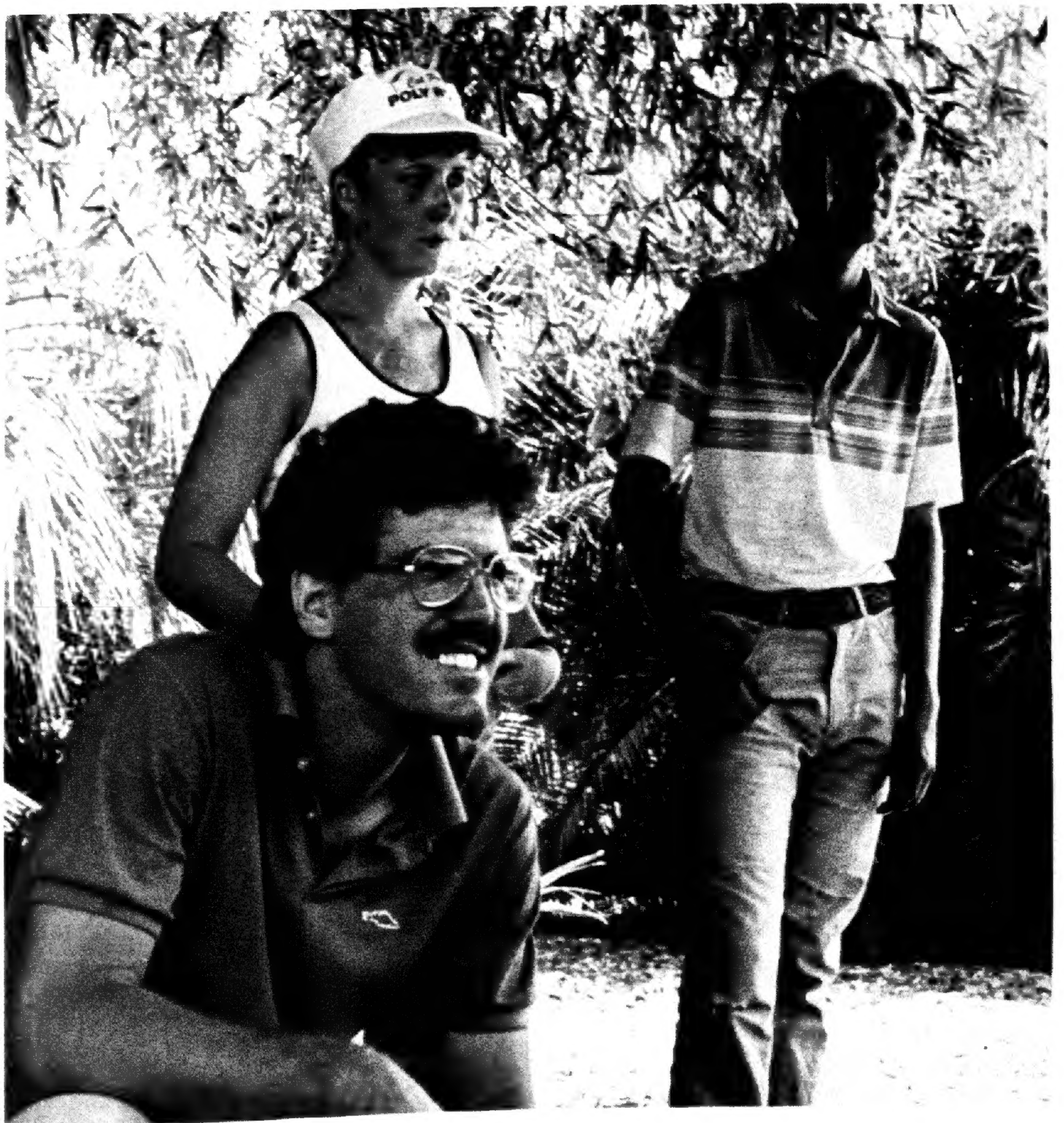
**Top left** Jim Gibbons (horticulturist at the San Diego Wild Animal Park), discusses the fever tree (*Acacia seiberana*) during a special tour arranged for the interns.

**Lower left** Ginger Smith and Mike Mayer handle the cement mixer as Rosana Costello, Suzette Girouard and Loretta Parks (from left) prepare the bog gardens along the stream in Meadowbrook.

**Top right** Tanja Gillespie (left) and Loretta Parks use the specialized equipment in the Herbarium as they identify a plant specimen.

**Far right** During a stint in the Nursery, Tanja Gillespie, Rosana Costello and Kathleen Farnan (from left) move seedlings into larger pots.

**Right** Mike Mayer, Kathleen Farnan and Randy Hammer (from left) listen intently to instructions for planting exotic palms in the palm garden.





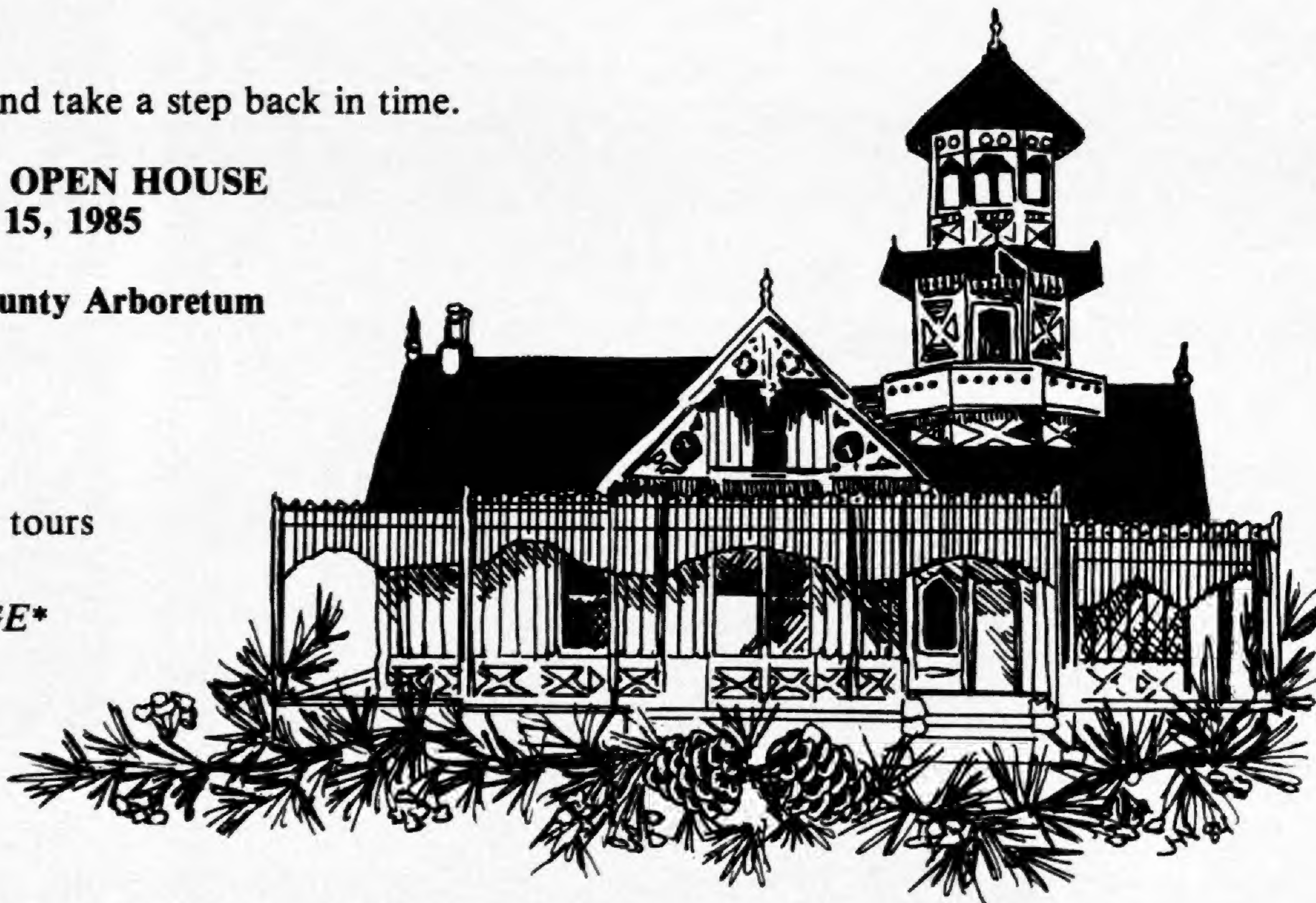
# Christmas 1885

Come to the *Arboretum* and take a step back in time.

**HISTORICAL SECTION OPEN HOUSE**  
**SUNDAY - DECEMBER 15, 1985**  
**10 AM to 4 PM**  
**Los Angeles State and County Arboretum**

Festive period decorations  
 Displays - Guided interior tours

*QUEEN ANNE COTTAGE\**  
*COACH BARN*  
*SANTA ANITA DEPOT*



Arboretum general admission fees in effect. This event is open to the public.

\*An additional \$1.00 per person will be charged at the *Queen Anne Cottage* to tour the interior.  
 Proceeds will benefit the Historical Restoration Fund.

## LOS ANGELES STATE & COUNTY ARBORETUM, Arcadia

**NOV. 2, 3 — 1 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday**  
**9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday**

Rose Show  
 San Gabriel Valley Rose and Horticultural Society

**NOV. 3 — 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
 Christmas Open House  
 Gift Shop

**NOV. 16, 17 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
 Bonsai Show  
 Santa Anita Bonsai Society

**DEC. 14, 15 — 1 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday**  
**9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday**

Camellia Show  
 Pacific Camellia Society

**DEC. 15 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
**CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**  
 Queen Anne Cottage

**JAN. 25, 26 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
 Bonsai Show  
 Baiko-en Kenkyukai Bonsai Society

**JAN. 26 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
 Bulb Sale  
 Southern California Gladiolus Society

*All events sponsored by the California Arboretum Foundation*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, 1985**  
**JANUARY, 1986**

### DESCANSO GARDENS, La Canada Flintridge

**NOV. 2, 3 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
 Chrysanthemum Show  
 Glendale Chrysanthemum Society

**NOV. 9, 10 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
 Ikebana Show  
 Los Angeles Chapter of the International Ikebana Society

**DEC. 7 thru 15 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
**CHRISTMAS SHOW**  
 Descanso Garden Guild

*All events sponsored by the Descanso Garden Guild*

### SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, Palos Verdes Peninsula

**OCT. 30 thru NOV. 2 —**  
**9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Crafts Fair  
 CountryCrafts

**NOV. 3 — 2 p.m.**  
 Wreath-making Demonstration  
 Susan Seamans

**NOV. 10 — 2 p.m.**  
 Chrysanthemum Care Demonstration  
 Lynn Bjorkland

**NOV. 17 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
 Herb Fair  
 "Herb-A-Fair"

**DEC. 1 — 2 p.m.**  
 African Violet Care Demonstration  
 Ralph Breden

**DEC. 8 — 2 p.m.**  
 Christmas Concert  
 Richard Schwalbe and the Palos Verdes Symphonic Band

**DEC. 15 — 2 p.m.**  
 Butterfly Slide Show  
 Jess Morton

**JAN. 25, 26 — 1 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday**  
**10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday**

Camellia Show  
 South Coast Camellia Society

*All events sponsored by the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation*